

RADIO IN DEPTH

ISSUE 18

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SEASONS GREETINGS FROM T.R.H.S.

RADIO IN DEPTH

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RADIO IN DEPTH IS THE OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS RADIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY !

THE HALLS OF IVY LOG

by
Marion D. Wedin

(Friday, 8:00 PM EST, NBC)

1950:

- Jan. 6: The Halls wait to hear if the board will reappoint Dr. Hall as president of Ivy College. Vicky gives tap dancing lessons while they wait.
- Jan. 13: ?
- Jan. 20: Dr. Hall is in the embarrassing situation of having to either side against the board or go against his conscience. But once again Vicky comes through with a solution to the problem.
- Jan. 27: Vicky gives one of the Ivy College profs an unacademic but effective lesson in applied psychology to cure him of stage fright before he is to make a speech.
- Feb. 3: ?
- Feb. 10: Dr. Hall's popularity with the students becomes questionable.
- Feb. 17: ?
- Feb. 24: Vicky gets an offer to return to the stage, but decides that the home fires burn much brighter than the footlights as far as she is concerned.
- Mar. 3: ?
- Mar. 10: ?
- Mar. 17: ?
- Mar. 24: ?
- Mar. 31: ?
- Apr. 7: ?
- Apr. 14: ?
- Apr. 21: ?
- Apr. 28: ?
- May 5: ?

(Wednesday, 8:00 PM EST, NBC)

- May 10: THE HALLS OF IVY MOVE TO A NEW DAY AND REPLACED THIS IS YOUR LIFE. Dr. Hall tries to stave off a sculpture monstrosity that is being presented to Ivy without losing the fat endowment that goes with it.
- May 17: An Ivy College student, who has become a successful song writer, decides to put his father through college on his earnings.
- May 24: ?
- May 31: ?
- Jun. 7: ?
- Jun. 14: The last show of the season. THE FALCON was the HALLS OF IVY summer replacement.
- Sept 13: THE HALLS OF IVY return to the air for another season.
- Sept 20: Dr. Hall faces the problem of hazing.
- Sept 27: Dr. Hall says "NO" to a half-million-dollar endowment.
- Oct. 4: ?
- Oct. 11: ?
- Oct. 18: ?
- Oct. 25: Dr. Frederick L. Houde, president of Purdue University, gives a testimonial to Mr. Colman for his portrayal of William Todhunter Hall.

1950 (Continued):

- Nov. 1: ?
Nov. 8: ?
Nov. 15: The glee club appeared in a Thanksgiving sing.
Nov. 22: The Halls have trouble when Vicky talks Jack Benny into appearing at Ivy's annual benefit. Jack wants to have the parking concession and to charge an additional 89¢ to wash the cars.
Nov. 29: ?
Dec. 6: Dr. Hall competes with a former All-American college prexy in a heroic tug of war to wrest a fat endowment from him.
Dec. 13: The college date bureau gets its dates mixed for the annual snow shuffle.
Dec. 20: The night before Christmas, while the Halls are trimming the Christmas tree, hoodlums break in and attempt to kidnap Eddie Gray, an Ivy student.
Dec. 27: Dr. Hall proposes a new course in marriage relations and gets in trouble.

1951:

- Jan. 3:
Jan. 10: A professor and one of his students both hit upon the same discovery.
Jan. 17: People know only what they've lived.
Jan. 24: ?
Jan. 31: When a retiring history professor can't produce a birth certificate to prove he's 65 the authorities take the attitude that he was never born.
Feb. 7: The astronomy professor fuses the loss of his job.
Feb. 14: The Halls holiday at another campus and rumors begin to fly.
Feb. 21: A charming, 38-year-old freshman, father of five, charms the Halls into going fishing with him.
Feb. 28: ?
Mar. 7: Musical Director Henry Russell composes a love song to help Dr. Hall convince two students that marriage is for lovers and not just for convenience.
Mar. 14: Dr. Hall deals with a father's disappointment over the fact that his son won't follow in his footsteps.
Mar. 21: A wealthy eccentric gives Ivy College an ornate Chinese chair.
Mar. 28: Lucille Norman visits the Halls.
Apr. 4: ?
Apr. 11: ?
Apr. 18: The Halls take under consideration the problems of producing a collegiate theatrical production.
Apr. 25: ?
May 2: THE HALLS OF IVY wins the Peabody award for "wit and charm with liberal and enlightened social philosophy and also its demonstration that RADIO comedy can be successful even at the risk of being intelligent."
May 9: ?
May 16: "The 11th Commandment". Miss Maxine Blake, national president of the Alpha Delta Pi, presents Mrs. Colman an honorary membership "for her portrayal of First Lady of the campus, embodying wisdom, understanding, wit, and charm."
May 23: ?
May 30: ?
Jun. 6: ?
Jun. 13: ?
Jun. 20: ?
Jun. 27: A student sells copies of his examination papers. The last show of the season.

1951 (Continued):

- Oct. 3: The first show of the new season.
- Oct. 10: A student writes a frank letter about college to the school paper.
- Oct. 17: A 70-year-old grandmother enrolls as a freshman and her middle-aged son wants her expelled to save him embarrassment.
- Oct. 24: ?
- Oct. 31: The Ivy football coach and Mr. Wellman have a disagreement.
- Nov. 7: The story, written by Ronald Colman, dealt with an audit of Halloween pranks on the Ivy College campus.
- Nov. 14: ?
- Nov. 21: ?
- Nov. 28: A 38-year-old student tries to work his way through school by selling eggs.
- Dec. 5: ?
- Dec. 12: ?
- Dec. 19: No snowman for Dr. Hall.
- Dec. 26: Dr. Hall plays the hero of the annual play of the dramatic club, Mrs. Hall is the club's coach.

1952:

- Jan. 2: A Ivy student is rushed to the hospital as a result of a hazing ritual, causing the Halls to try to turn "Hell Week" into "Help Week."
- Jan. 9: Clyde W. Park, a professor at the University of Cincinnati, coauthored the script for this show.
- Jan. 16: The problem is what type of paintings are to be exhibited at Ivy's annual art exhibit.
- Jan. 23: A co-ed is ashamed of her father because he operates a hamburger stand near Ivy's campus.
- Jan. 30: ?
- Feb. 6: ?
- Feb. 13: THE HALLS OF IVY salute Dr. Lynn Townsend White, Jr., president of Mills College, Oakland, California.
- Feb. 20: An anonymous female gossip columnist, broadcasting over the campus RADIO becomes a problem for the Halls. Dr. Frederick L. Hovde, president of Purdue University, is honored on the program.
- Feb. 27: The chairman of the board tries to use the fines on a book overdue for 31 years to pay the support of the library. Dr. John Sloan Dickey, president of Dartmouth College is honored.
- Mar. 5: An astronomy student walks out on an exam, declaring the quiz to be too easy. The Colmans honor M. T. Harington, president of Texas A&M University as outstanding college president.
- Mar. 12: An overworked faculty member re-examines his 40-hour week when he observes a handicapped child.
- Mar. 19: ?
- Mar. 26: A co-ed is suspected of being a thief. Les Baxter from Dallas joined in the opening harmony.
- Apr. 2: President Hall plays host to 300 members of the Deans of Women.
- Apr. 9: Two faculty members are married against the rules of the college.
- Apr. 16: An exchange student, a young woman from France, criticizes the Ivy newspaper.
- Apr. 23: The son of a professor fears he will flunk his father's course.
- Apr. 30: The 100th performance. Dr. Hall suggests a faculty entertainment to raise funds for Ivy's Athenaeum Players.
- May 7: The faculty entertainment program to raise funds is threatened when the board chairman tries to cancel it.
- May 14: A beautiful and talented music student suddenly decides to give up singing.

[Continued on page 7]

THE RADIO TIME MACHINE
A VIST WITH THE COLMANS
1951

Welcome back ! I haven't seen you since February. I guess you have been too busy to visit your old friend Time and take a whirl in my odd looking machine. We had such fun during our visit to a FRED ALLEN SHOW that I thought you would at least write and ask to take another trip.

Well, what do you know ! Been reading about the Colmans' visit to the JACK BENNY SHOW in the JACK BENNY LOG that RADIO IN DEPTH has been running, and you want to see for yourself where and how the Colmans lived ! Good show ! You would have had to look a long time to find a better couple to visit. They were the best.

Alright, the machine is ready as you can tell from the whirling noise you hear. Let me set the time for March, 1951. Why did I pick March ? The flowers will be in bloom and since the Colmans are spending two days a week doing the HALLS OF IVY RADIO program for the Schlitz Brewing Company and NBS they will not be down at their ranch near Santa Barbara. It would be a shame not to find the Colmans at home.

There ! Now that wasn't a bad trip, was it ?

That must be the house there. The big brown one with gables. Look how the vines and shrubs clime all over it. And that evergreen that seems to rise from the roof itself to hug and hide the chimney, what a wonderful touch. A fitting place for Dr. and Mrs. Todhunter Hall to live.

Look. Over there. On the rolling green lawn between the stately flower beds. That man in the old greenish sports jacket and slacks. The one playing with the over weight brown poodle, isn't that Ronald Colman, himself. Oops ! He should have never thrown that beat-up old tennis ball into that snapdragon bed. I knew it, there goes that fat poodle after it. Look at the way he is breaking off the blooms. We had better go on to the house. I have a feeling he will have a few choice words for his fat friend.

"I want the bay window thrown out right here."

Who said that ? Oh, I see. It is Benita talking to that group of workmen. There is a workman walking in our direction. Let's see if he can tell us what the workmen are about to do to this beautiful house.

"Hey there, could we ask you some questions ?"

"Make them short. We have a lot of work to do."

"What are you about to do to the house ?"

"Put in another bay window. The eighth."

"Benita Colman must like bay windows."

"Yep, she does. I saw here earlier looking for a good spot for the next one. It wasn't like this in the old days when Corinne Griffith owned the house or even before Mr. Colman married. We have plenty of new houses to build without having to come back here again and again to put in bay windows. That the Bennys' house over there, passed the swimming pool, it has been here much longer and they haven't had to do much remodeling to it. Since the war we have had to work our tails off trying to build enough houses for everyone, and now that things are just settling down do we get a break ? No. We have to come out here and put in bay windows."

"I think we had better say goodbye and go on up to the house. I hope you get the jobs you want. And thank you for answering our questions."

Am I glad to get away from him. We haven't much time left and there is a lot to see. We are in luck. That man about thirty, the good looking one standing in the doorway, is Harry, the Colmans' butler. I know him from other visits so we will get to see the inside of the house.

"Hi, there, Harry. It has been a long time."

"Are you who I think you are?"

"I am."

"In a year you have sure aged. Your hair is snow white and your face wrinkled. How did that happen?"

"You might say it was caused by a disease that no one can cure, only learn to live with."

"How about the wonder drug?"

"It doesn't do any good against this disease. But we are here to see how the Colmans live."

"Who are these people?"

"Harry, I would like for you to meet the readers of RADIO IN DEPTH. Now that we have all shook hands, let's go into the house. What room are you going to show us first?"

"Ronald Colman's favorite room, the library."

It is sure easy to see how he likes this room. The oak-paneling is beautiful. And the way the book shelves go from floor to ceiling fits the image we have of Ronald Colman.

"Is this room the way it was before Ronald married?"

"There have been a few changes. That Paisley-print armchair has been added as well as the sculptured bust of Mr. Colman."

He must be talking about that bust in front of the book shelves at the end of the pink-gold couch. The chair is that one just to the right of the bust. The low fat gold lamp on the table just behind the couch and that gold cigarette box next to it gives the room a nice touch. That must be Ronald's pipe on the glass covered coffee table in front of the couch.

"Many a night Mr. Colman will sit on this couch and read until Mrs. Colman has put the household to bed."

Besides the Colmans and a few servants the household includes their daughter Juliet, two dogs, four rabbits, and one tortoise. Benita must have her hands full.

"Come along and I will show you the rest of the house. I have to hurry, Jack and Mary Benny are coming over tonight."

So the Bennys and the Colmans were good friends. At least you now know the JACK BENNY shows were not all fiction.

"This room has been added on since Mrs. Colman came to live here. It is the second sitting room. You can see from this room that Mrs. Colman likes a lot of colour. Notice the Chinese mural wallpaper."

"Who could miss it? Orange-red on gray is colourful. And the orange-red lacquer chairs add to effect. What kind of flower is that in the vase over by the picture windows? And speaking of picture windows, look at that view of the lawn. Are they always such a cold green?"

"The flowers are bird-of-paradise blooms. The only flowers I know of that matches the colour of the room. As for the lawns, they have that hue only about twice a year."

You see this piano. I know for a fact that it has been played by people like Jose Iturbi, Artur Rubinstein, and Myra Hess. Jascha Heifitz has brought his violin over so he could play it in this room of "singing colours."

"Let's move on to another room. I still have dinner to prepare."

"Harry, do you also cook?"

"Yes. I have help when the Colmans give a large affair, and on my day off Mrs. Colman likes to do the cooking."

"Does Mrs. Colman cook English dishes?"

"Not that I know of. Mr. Colman's favorite dish is Italian spaghetti. Here we are in the formal drawing-room."

That long sofa with the floral pattern of lilac and primrose flowers against the wall looks comfortable. If no one minds, I'll rest my old bones for a moment or two.

"Who painted that portrait of Benita?"

"Richard Kitchen."

"And that figure of a kneeling nude woman?"

"Mrs. Colman sculptured that piece for Mr. Colman."

"And what is behind those green drapes?"

"A projection booth. The Colmans sometimes show home movies."

I wish we had the chance to see some of those movies, but our time is running out and Harry is already standing in the doorway.

"How about showing us Juliet's nursery?"

"Right this way."

The last time I was here Benita told me an interesting story about the first time she took Juliet to see a stage production. It was a matinee of the Sadler's Wells Ballet performance of "Sleeping Beauty." Before the show Benita told Juliet and her seven-year-old girl friend what would happen. She told about the conductor coming out and talking his place before the orchestra. Then he would wave and the music would begin. Benita took the girls to their balcony seats where they took their places quietly next to the rail. The show started and everything happened as Benita had described it. The conductor mounted the podium and raised his hands. Everyone was quite. Then in a burst of excitement Juliet threw her body against the balcony rail and shouted "Ready!" Everyone turned and looked at her. "Set?" Her mother was trying to reach Juliet when she continued, "Go!" Benita Colman just slid back into her seat with her face hid in her furs.

"This is Juliet's room. As you can see by the blue-checked wallpaper, child-size white furniture, and nursery-rhyme characters. You might like to know that Juliet has been on the stage already. She was just a few days ago in a play held by the Westlake School for Girls. Both the Colmans went to see her play the part of a Candy Cane in costume and sing a song with twenty of her school mates. There were other parents there. Betty Grable, the Astaires, the Bergens, and the George Murphys. Everyone seemed to like the show."

"We must be going. But we would like to see out back before we go. On the way could you tell us something about what the Colmans like to do for self entertainment?"

"While they are living in this house, during the Fall and Winter, one of Mr. Colman's favorite diversions is trying out new magic tricks. Every time he gets to the point he is beginning to believe he is great at magic, Mrs. Colman invites director Peter Godfrey and Warner Baxter over to do some of their magic tricks. After they are through making gold fish bowls disappear Mr. Colman is back to his old self and threatening to practice sawing Mrs. Colman in half. They seem to always be having fun with each other. Maybe because they are so much in love with each other. Here we are outside again. Is there something I can point out for you before I have to go back inside?"

"This brick patio is something. That house over to the left. Is that the old Jack Benny home? The one passed the swimming pool."

"Yes, it is. The Colmans and Bennys used to visit quite often since they lived so close to each other. They still visit each other as often as they can."

And over to the right is what looks like an ancient summerhouse.

"Harry, who lives beyond the summerhouse?"

"That the home of Oona and Charles Chaplin. Juliet and the Chaplin children use it for a playhouse. I would like to spend more time answering your questions but I really have to go in now."

"Thank you a lot, Harry. Before you go I had better tell you that this old man you see before you is just a product of make-up and costume. That also explains our funny dress. We have just come from performing in a television show about the future. The next time we meet I will be my old self again, but humor me and not mention my visit to anyone. I feel uneasy about running around in this make-up."

"If that is your wish. But I hope you aren't deserting RADIO for television."

"No. I will stay with it to the bitter end and maybe far beyond."

"Everyone says television will never be as big as RADIO."

"Harry, let me give you a tip. Television will be as big and cost a lot more to produce, but will never serve as well as RADIO is now."

"Goodbye, everyone."

"Goodbye, Harry."

I hope you understand why I had to tell him that lie about the make-up. He would not understand if I had told him we are visiting from the year 1975. Well, it is time to go.

There. That may have not been an exciting trip for you, but I think we all learned something about the Colmans. As you know, not very much was written about them.

I hope you will return and ask for another trip. But if you write and tell me you are coming and let me know what you would like to see it would help.

Until next time. Goodbye.

THE HALLS OF IVY LOG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3:

1952 (Continued):

May 21: A bogus, but charming "celebrated Viennese psychiatrist" arrives on Ivy's campus.

May 28: The Halls find an authentic replica of the mummy of Tut-Ankh-Amen on their doorstep.

Jun. 4: An expectant GI wife has the examination rule suspended to pass her final educational tests.

Jun. 11: Special guests make a mistake and come to dinner on the wrong night.

Jun. 18: A woman mathematics professor proves she's an expert at figures in more ways than one.

Jun. 25: Last show of the season. Ronald Colman reads Shakespeare's "Speech to the Players" and "The Tempest."

"Young people are children callously pulling the wings off butterflies. The chief purpose of education is to impart an understanding of the butterfly's viewpoint." Dr. William Todhunter Hall, Ivy College

THE HALLS OF IVY

Friday, January 6, 1950, at 8:00 PM EST, on NBS, THE HALLS OF IVY brightened the airways for the first time. Don Quinn [writer of the FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY SHOW] created a program that was the ideal RADIO program for Ronald and Benita Colman. It was a unique story of college life as viewed from the office of president. The main characters were Dr. William Todhunter Hall, the president and grandson of the founder of Ivy College, gentle, witty, wish, scholarly, and his wife, Victoria Hall, ex-musical-comedy star, witty, occasionally impetuous, always understanding, and English. THE HALLS OF IVY was the story of happy married life and high drama of college life.

"A college president pursues his job with grimness, the intensity of concentration, and the utter lack of humor of a child reading a comic book." Dr. William Todhunter Hall, Ivy College

To the doorstep of the president came every problem and crises of the small but active college—Ivy, and there the buck would truly stop. Some of those problems were: When intolerance sweeps Ivy College a Chinese honor student tries to leave; A graduate Ivy architect has the words "ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT" caved over the front door of Ivy's new theology building which she designed; The campus newspaper blasts the board; A politician applies pressure; etc.

Each problem calls for a different approach to its solution, but through it all the solutions blossom from the teamwork of Tod and Vicky Hall against any and all odds. And they were always victorious throughout the short history of the program. They were even victorious when the problem was person, such as, the time Vicky's past came under attack or Dr. Hall thought the students no longer liked him when he did not find the traditional Christmas snowman on his front lawn.

But even if the stories had not been as good as they were, THE HALLS OF IVY would have still had a large audience. People would have listened just to hear Ronald Colman's "blue velvet voice" with its quick phrasing in low gentle tones saying such words of wisdom as, "Woolgathering makes a lovely comforter."

The audition record for THE HALLS OF IVY was made with a script that had required no reworking or rewriting. "I never felt so good," Don Quinn said after the audition performance. "Everyone in the studio—engineers, pageboys—congratulated me." And well they should. For sixteen years the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company of Milwaukee had refused to sponsor a network RADIO program, but when they heard the audition record of THE HALLS OF IVY they jumped at the chance to sponsor. And well they should. The opening performance of THE HALLS OF IVY rocked the Hooperatings with an unheard of first performance rating of 10 points.

THE HALLS OF IVY replaced THIS IS YOUR LIFE every Wednesday starting May 10, 1950 at 8:00 PM EST over NBC. THE HALLS OF IVY and the Colmans probable received more awards in the short time they were on the air than any other show during an equal time span.

Willard Waterman played Mr. Merriweather, Hall's biggest problem child. Herbert Butterfield played Clarence Wellman. Gloria Gordon played the Cockney maid, Penny. Walter Brown assisted in the writing. Ken Carpenter was the announcer. Nat Wolff directed. The program was produced by Sam Fuller for the sponsor and Archie Scott for the producer. The theme was written for the program : "The Halls of Ivy".

Don Quinn who wrote the FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY show from 1935 on made the following arrangement when the show was created: "The moment we have to go into putty-nose comedy routines I'm through." The problem never really existed. Who would have change such a refreshing mixture of comedy and drama ?

On Monday, May 19, 1958 Ronald Colman passed away from a lung infection at the age of 67. His funeral was held May 21. The fifteen minute services left out any eulogy and was mostly Easter hymns. William Powell accompanied Benita to the All Saints-by-The-Sea Episcopal Church at Santa, Barbara for the service. Ronald Colman, William Powell, and Richard Barthelmess had played the Three Musketeers in the movie, so Richard Barthelmess accompanied Juliet, who had become a young woman.

THE MOVIES OF RONALD COLMAN

Ronald Colman was born February 9, 1891 at Richmond, Surrey, England. In 1919 he married Thelma Raye and they were divorced in 1934. In 1938 he married the great English actress, Benita Hume. On May 19, 1958, Ronald Colman died, leaving the world the following movie legacy:

- 1929: BULLDOG DRUMMOND (United Artists); CONDEMNED (United)
- 1930: RAFFLES (United); THE DEVIL TO PAY (United)
- 1931: THE UNHOLY GARDEN (United); ARROWSMITH (United)
- 1932: CYNARA (United)
- 1933: THE MASQUERADER (United)
- 1934: BULLDOG DRUMMOND STRIKES BACK (United)
- 1935: CLIVE OF INDIA (United); THE MAN WHO BROKE THE BANK AT MONTE CARLO (Fox)
A TALE OF TWO CITIES (MGM)
- 1936: UNDER TWO FLAGS (20th Century)
- 1937: LOST HORIZON (Columbia); THE PRISONER OF ZENDA (United)
- 1938: IF I WERE KING (Paramount)
- 1939: THE LIGHT THAT FAILED (Paramount)
- 1940: LUCKY PARTNERS (RKO)
- 1941: MY LIFE WITH CAROLINE (RKO)
- 1942: THE TALK OF THE TOWN (Columbia); RANDOM HARVEST (MGM)
- 1944: KISMET (MGM)
- 1947: THE LATE GEORGE APELY (20th Century)
- 1948: A DOUBLE LIFE (Universal)
- 1950: CHAMPAGNE FOR CAESAR (United)
- 1956: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (United)
- 1957: THE STORY OF MANKIND (Warner Brothers)

THE BLUE PHANTOM MURDERS—AN
"I LOVE A MYSTERY" SCRIPT BY
CARLTON E. MORSE (1950)

EPISODE 6

MUTUAL

"I LOVE A MYSTERY"

STORY NO. X -- EPISODE NO. 6

"THE BLUE PHANTOM MURDERS"

JUNE 9, 1950

FRIDAY

SOUND: (TRAIN AND WHISTLE)

ANNCR: The Mutual Broadcasting System presents "I LOVE A
MYSTERY".

SOUND: (TRAIN AND WHISTLE)

(MUSIC:.....ORGAN--"VALSE TRISTE")

SOUND: (SIREN...SCREECH OF BRAKES)

ANNCR: A new Carlton Morse Adventure Thriller!.....
"The Blue Phantom Murders".

SOUND: (CLOCK STRIKES FIVE)

ANNCR: Five o'clock in the afternoon aboard the power yacht, Blue Phantom somewhere in the South Atlantic Ocean. Two men have died aboard the Blue Phantom and there's little doubt in anyone's mind now that it was murder. Murder for three reasons. First, while the two men definitely died of snake venom, there are no snakes aboard the yacht; second, while Dr. Davids, the ship's doctor was performing the second autopsy, assisted by Ezra Parks, scientist, the two men were slugged from behind and when they were discovered unconscious the two bodies had disappeared; Third, there is some kind of a cold-blooded feud in existence between the Captain and owner of the craft, Arnold Foster, and Dr. Davids and Dr. Parks. An undercurrent of deadliness which has Captain Foster in a cold sweat of terror. Terror which he refuses to admit and which he attempts to cover up with chuckling and smirking and self-effacing hand-washing. The two dead men are the cabin steward and Pete, a sailor. The others aboard ship are Captain Foster, his young wife, Ruth; Dr. Parks, Dr. Davids; Swensen, the engineer; Charlie, able seaman; and the three comrades Jack Packard, Doc Long and Reggie York. Parks and Davids were slugged and the two bodies stolen at nine o'clock this morning and it wasn't until four o'clock this afternoon, an hour ago, that the next fantastic event happened.

(MORE)

ANNCR:
(CONT'D)

Reggie dashed in to report that one of the missing bodies had returned and was lying sprawled on the deck before Dr. Davids' cabin, drenching wet. Jack and Doc followed him back to the spot to discover the body gone again, but on the deck was a wet outline of where the body had lain. Jack has called a council of war.

JACK: (COMING TO MIKE) Matters aboard the Blue Phantom have reached a stage bordering on the ridiculous..These things couldn't happen to a group of normal, well-balanced people...They're insane..childishly insane..As I said, bordering on the ridiculous.

DOC: Ridiculous, huh....That's the first time I ever knowed you to call murder ridiculous...

JACK: I'm not talking about the murders..Anyway, that's why I asked you, Dr. Davids, to come in our cabin and talk with Doc, Reggie and me.

DAVIDS: I'm honored..But I still can't quite see WHY?

JACK: Because of all the people aboard the Blue Phantom you seem the most natural and normal...balanced.

DAVIDS: (AMUSED) Thank you..

JACK: That and because I think you can give us some information that I can't get out of either Captain Foster or that scientist, Parks....

DAVIDS: (WARILY) Oh no... oh no..I don't know a thing..

JACK: That can't be true...

DAVIDS: Please understand my position before you begin your conversation..I don't know a thing..I can't tell you one word that you don't already know...

I LOVE A MYSTERY
JUNE 9, 1950

-4- STORY NO. X - EPISODE NO. 6

DOC: You know feller, it's written all over you, that you're just plain lyin'..

REGGIE: Righto..

DAVIDS: That is my position and I propose to maintain it..

JACK: (SLOWLY) Maybe we're wrong in presuming you're the one man we can talk sensibly with...

DAVIDS: Perhaps you are..That's for you to decide..

JACK: Well, what do you two say?

REGGIE: I say, he DOESN'T seem to be our man, at that..

DOC: I say shoo him out of here and let's don't trust NOBODY with anything we've got to say..

DAVIDS: Very good, gentlemen..

JACK: Just a minute, Doctor..

DAVIDS: Yes?

JACK: I want you to stay anyway...

DOC: Hey, now looky, Jack...

JACK: Do you MIND?

DOC: (HESITATES) Well now when you put it that a-way....

JACK: What about you, Reggie?

REGGIE: Oh look here...Righto!

JACK: Then you stay, Doctor...

DOC: But doggone it, Jack, suppose Dr. Davids here is---

JACK: The matter's settled..

DOC: (SHRUGS) Sure...Why not?

JACK: Now then, I maintain the situation on this ship at the moment is ridiculous and I want to show you why. First, we've got a captain aboard who's afraid of his own shadow, although he won't admit it..that right, Doctor?

DAVIDS: Yes, there's definite signs of fear reflexes...

JACK: We're assuming he's a good seaman, but we're only taking that on hear-say...Do you know for certain?

DAVIDS: I do...I've sailed with him before.

JACK: All right, next. This is our twelfth day at sea and already two men have died of snake poisoning..

DOC: Yeah, and no snakes..

DAVIDS: That's positive!

JACK: And this is where we begin to get into the realm of the absurd..A situation of this kind simply CAN'T exist..

DAVIDS: (SHRUGS) I'm not a detective..I don't know how or why it happened..All I can tell you, as a medical man, is that those two men were poisoned by venom.

JACK: All right, we'll let that go for a minute and pass on to the really idiotic situation. Captain Foster had every intention of burying the two dead men at sea this afternoon..

DAVIDS: Yes, I had definite instructions from him to prepare the bodies..

JACK: Everyone aboard knew that..And yet someone went to all the trouble of knocking you and Dr. Parks unconscious and getting rid of the bodies himself...Why?

REGGIE: I say, the only reason he could have had, was to get rid of them before we found out something about them.

JACK: That doesn't hold water..In neither case were the bodies disturbed until Dr. Davids had had an opportunity to make as thorough an autopsy as possible aboard ship.

DAVIDS: That's true.

DOC: Just the same, Jack..He had SOME reason....He HAD to have or he wouldn't have done it.

JACK: I have my own opinion on that..

DOC: Whatcha mean by that?

JACK: The person who took those bodies is playing a silly, childish game..Trying to mystify us..trying to heighten the tension..create an atmosphere of fear.

REGGIE: I say, you really think that's what's behind all this?

JACK: And if you want further proof, you have it in the reappearance of the body of the sailor, Pete..

DAVIDS: I don't believe there WAS a reappearance...

REGGIE: But look here, old man, I SAW it..

DAVIDS: So you say..

REGGIE: Now just a minute..I say I SAW THE BODY OF PETE LYING IN THE FRONT OF YOUR CABIN.

DAVIDS: (SHRUGS) I won't argue with you...

DOC: But doggone it, feller, when Reggie come and got us and took us where he was layin' the wet imprint of his body was still there...

DAVIDS: But the body wasn't there..

DOC: No it wasn't, but if Reggie said he seen a body he SEEN it.

JACK: Just a minute, Doc..Reggie, tell exactly the circumstances under which you saw Pete's body....

REGGIE: Quite..You assigned me to stay in Dr. Davids' cabin with him after we found him unconscious. When he returned to consciousness I talked with him a few minutes and then I decided to find you and tell you he was in a condition to talk. I opened the door, stepped outside, locked it, because you said you wanted to keep him confined until you'd talked to him, and turned around and there he was..I mean IT was..The body of Pete lying almost at my feet.

JACK: You examined it?

REGGIE: Only enough to see who it was and to notice that the clothing was drenched as though he had just come up out of the ocean..

DOC: Hey, you don't suppose after he was throwed overboard a wave come along and boosted him back on deck?

JACK: (DRYLY) And then another wave came along and removed him again, I suppose..

DOC: Yeah, not so good.

REGGIE: Besides, all the deck was dry except where he was lying.

JACK: Then what did you do?

REGGIE: I say, I dashed into the cabin where you and Doc, here, were talking with Dr. Parks...

JACK: In other words, it wasn't more than a minute or two from the time you left the body until we were back at the spot where it had been lying..

REGGIE: Exactly....

JACK: Just about time enough for someone to have picked it up and thrown it overboard and got out of sight...

REGGIE: He would jolly well have had to make tracks..

JACK: And you still want to contend Pete's body didn't reappear, Davids?

DAVIDS: I do..

JACK: You don't think that's rather a silly attitude in the face of Reggie's story?

DAVIDS: No.

DOC: You're jes' plain ornery stubborn, feller, that's all's the matter with YOU.

DAVIDS: (SHRUGS) Very well then, I'm stubborn..

JACK: Will you explain the reason for your attitude?

DAVIDS: We have your word for it, that you searched the yacht thoroughly and the bodies were not aboard.

JACK: That's right...

DAVIDS: If one of them was not aboard at the time of your search, how could it be aboard later?

JACK: The body had been in the ocean...

DAVIDS: (AGREES) So Mr. York says..

JACK: It must have been fastened over the side in some manner by a tow line and brought aboard again at our mastermind's convenience...

DOC: Yeah....Yeah, that's it..

REGGIE: I say, it COULD have been done..

DAVIDS: (SHRUGS) Well, you gentlemen work along those lines.. I have no objections, I'm sure...

DOC: But you still don't go along with us...

DAVIDS: I'm afraid not...

JACK: Nevertheless, we get back to the principal matter, which is that there's someone aboard with an infantile mind who is playing childish pranks..The body's here..Now it isn't..Button, button, who's got the button..

DOC: Well ME, I STILL say murderin' two fellers with snake poison is doggone serious child's play..

DAVIDS: If your contentions are true, Packard, then your job of finding the murderer should be very simple..

JACK: You think so...

DAVIDS: Certainly..Find the person among us with a child's mind..

DOC: Yeah, and you don't have very far to look neither..

JACK: What do you mean?

DOC: I mean Captain Arnold Foster..If he ain't the silliest child I ever DID see..Simpering and sniveling..Silly grin on his face..I swear to goodness, he don't act like he had the sense of a two year old..

JACK: Yes, that's Captain Foster on the surface..But that isn't Captain Foster UNDER the surface..There's a sly, keen, well-developed brain behind that face..Don't you agree with me, Doctor?

DAVIDS: Definitely...

JACK: No, I'm much more interested in what's going on in the mind of our scientist...

DOC: Dr. Parks..But looky Jack, we KNOW he's got brains..

REGGIE: Righto..He's the most intelligent man aboard ship...

JACK: And therefore the most dangerous..There's such a thing as being too brilliant...

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DOC: That's the second time you've said that..How kin a hombre have too much brains?

JACK: What about it, Doctor..Am I on the right track?

DAVIDS: There's plenty of medical evidence to support you..Mind you, I'm not saying Dr. Parks falls in this category, but it's a known medical fact that overworked, over-developed brains sometimes break down so that the victim often drops from the height of intelligence to the level of childish drive....

REGGIE: Jove...

DOC: Hey, then Dr. Parks is the man we gotta look out for..

DAVIDS: I did not say that..I've seen no evidence of mental deficiencies in Dr. Parks...

JACK: All right, we have Captain Foster who acts childish and Dr. Parks who may THINK childishly..Next, let's examine Ruth Foster...

DAVIDS: Not in MY presence you won't..

JACK: What's that?

DAVIDS: We'll keep Captain Foster's wife's name out of this.

DOC: Besides Jack, you can't tie up a sweet, young little old gal like her with MURDER.

JACK: Can't I?

DAVIDS: You cannot...Mrs. Foster is a victim of circumstances..

JACK: What circumstances?

DAVIDS: (DEFIANT) That is something I refuse to discuss with anyone.

DOC: (AMUSED) Well doggone, you don't need to get so het up about it..After all she's a nice gal and all that but----

DAVIDS: I said we won't discuss Mrs. Foster..

DOC: What about that, Jack?

JACK: (SLOWLY) No, we won't discuss Mrs. Foster...

DAVIDS: (SHORTLY) Thank you..

DOC: Which only leaves Swensen the engineer and Charlie,
the sailor to talk about..

JACK: They're out..

DOC: Whatcha mean OUT..

JACK: Neither one of them have anything to do with this
business.

REGGIE: I say..you're SURE...

JACK: Yes..They're too stolid..too down to earth! The things
going on aboard the Blue Phantom are being conceived and
executed by an extraordinarily intelligent brain gone
berserk...

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Gentlemen...Please!

DOC: (STARTLED) Hey.

REGGIE: I say, Captain Foster..

DOC: Hey, how'd you git in this cabin without us knowin' IT?

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Does it matter?

DOC: Doggone tootin' it MATTERS...

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Now..now, it doesn't..Now, really, DOES IT?

JACK: You heard what I've been saying?

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Partly..Partly..Very interesting too..

JACK: (SHARP) Hey look out...Catch him, Doc..

SOUND: (OF CRASH OF FURNITURE AND BODY FALL)

REGGIE: I say...He's fainted..

JACK: Quite. Doctor..What is it?

DAVIDS: If you'll stand back...(PAUSE) Get me a glass of water.

JACK: Water, Doc...

DOC: (LEAVING MIKE) You bet..

JACK: Has he been poisoned?

DAVIDS: No..Partial faint..He's coming out of it already..

REGGIE: (RELIEF) Jove...That's a relief..

DAVIDS: Here, stretch him out..That's it..

DOC: (COMING TO MIKE) Here you are, Doctor..Glass of water...

DAVIDS: Just a moment..How do you feel, Arnold?

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Gave you quite a scare, didn't I?...

DAVIDS: Can you sit up now?

FOSTER: (AMUSED) Certainly..Certainly...

DAVIDS: Here, wait, let us help you..Packard, will you give me a hand..

JACK: All right...Now...(STRAINS) Uuup you come..Reggie, shove that chair under him..

REGGIE: Righto..

DAVIDS: (EXHALES) There...Now drink a little water.

(PAUSE)

FOSTER: (EXHALES) (CHUCKLES) I hope there wasn't poison in that water, Doctor Davids.

DAVIDS: (STIFFLY) I assure you there wasn't...

FOSTER: (AMUSED) No..no, of course there wasn't..I'll just lie back and close my eyes for a moment..

JACK: (LOW) Doctor, can I speak to you for a moment...

FOSTER: Oh no, don't go away..I've got something interesting to tell you..(CHUCKLES) Very interesting..Just want to get my breath..

JACK: We'll be across the room when you're ready..(LEAVING
MIKE) Doc, you and Reggie stay with him..

(PAUSE)

DAVIDS: Well?

JACK: (GUARDED) Doctor, did you notice how his eyes were
dilated and the pallor of his skin...

DAVIDS: Yes, and his pulse is racing like mad..

JACK: Fear?

DAVID: Utter terror..The man's liable to die of apoplexy if
this keeps up..

JACK: All right..I just wanted to make sure I was right..

FOSTER: (BACK LITTLE) Gentlemen...Gentlemen..Gather around..

JACK: All right..Let's see what he wants..

FOSTER: Gentlemen.(CHUCKLES) The most interesting bit of news
since the voyage begun....

DAVIDS: You're sure you feel like talking?

FOSTER: Oh yes..yes, I feel very much like talking..

JACK: Well go on..What is it?..

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) You'll be aamzed..My wife Ruth has been
murdered..

DAVIDS: (HORROR) In heaven's name, Arnold...

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Uh-huh....uh-huh...

JACK: Stop that noise and TALK!

FOSTER: (CHUCKLES) Murdered....Murdered with poison!

I LOVE A MYSTERY
JUNE 9, 1950

-14- STORY NO. X - EPISODE NO. 6

(MUSIC:.....ORGAN ..-"VALE TRISTE"...)

SOUND: (SIREN)

ANNCR: The further adventures of Jack, Doc and Reggie will
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BENITA HUME

Benita Hume was born in London, England during 1906. She learned acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Her career started with a walk-on at the Drury Lane Theater on June 3, 1924. From 1924 to 1925 Benita played supporting roles on the London stage. One of these roles was the part of Miskah in the 1925 revival of "Kismet." During this period she also played in some silent movies such as "The Happy Ending", "Second to None", and "The Constant Nymph."

In 1930 Benita won the leading role in the hit show, "Symphony in Two Flats." The she went from England to Montreal and then on to New York. The New York critics were not too kind to the show, calling it "pretentious." But her part in the show won her a three year contract with Paramount Studios to make films. Her salary for Paramount was \$1,500 per week.

Benita was on the whole given poor parts that did not let her make full use of her great acting abilities. She did play in three movies of note: "Only Yesterday" (1933) with Margaret Sullavan; "Looking Forward" (1933) with Lionel Barrymore; and "The Private Life of Don Juan" (1934) with Douglas Fairbanks.

In 1938 Bentia quite the movies and became the with of Ronald Colman. She appeared with her husband in many guest appearances on THE JACK BENNY SHOW and became fond of RADIO. In 1949 the Colmans starred in the HALLS OF IVY RADIO program and for one season in 1954 the HALLS OF IVY was on television. That was the last time Benita acted.

After the passing of Ronald Colman in 1958 Benita left America. In February, 1959 Benita Hume Colman married George Sanders in Madrid, Spain. Benita died on Wednesday, November 1, 1967 on her sister's farm in Egerton, England. Her sister's name was Mrs. Pamela Milburne.

BENITA HUME'S FIIMS:

The Happy Ending; Second to None; The Constant Nymph; The Wrecker (Said to be her first film role); Reserved for Ladies; Men of Steel; Women Who Play; Lord Camber's Ladies; Blame the Woman; High Treason; The Lady of the Lake; Clear all Wires; Service; Gambling Ship; Jaws of Hell; Worst Woman in Paris; Power; The Divine Spark; The Gay Deception; The Garden Murder Case; Looking Forward; Only Yesterday; The Private Life of Don Juan; Moonlight Murder; Suzy; Tarzan Escapes; Rainbow on the River; The Last Mrs. Cheyney; and Peck's Bad Boy With the Circus (The role that is said to have convinced Benita to quit the movies).

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